

ROUND 2 QUICK QUOTES
November 10, 2023



ALEX NOREN (-15)

Q. Alex, another 5-under 66 today following a 61 yesterday. How different was this round compared to the round yesterday when you made 11 birdies?

ALEX NOREN: Yeah, today was, I played similarly good. Hit probably the same amount of greens, but just didn't hit as close. Like yesterday was probably the best I played in, I mean, five years or 10 years, I don't know. But today I hit it, the wedges came up 15 feet instead of five and had a bunch of tap-ins yesterday. The greens are, it's quite a lot of slope and quite a lot of grain. The first three birdies I just kind of rolled in and then it was a little trickier, but I'm happy with 5 under, yeah.

Q. When you start with three birdies like that and close with a couple towards the end, what's that middle stretch like? Do you get frustrated? How do you deal with that patience factor?

ALEX NOREN: Well, it helps when you had a good round the previous day. You're not necessarily struggling, you're just -- necessarily not frustrated, it's just that what am I doing different? You know, like am I trying too hard or start asking the caddie for the reads. We work a lot on the reads on the practice green and he helps me off and on with the reads on the green, but it's probably better that I just feel the putts and trust my instinct. That's what I did yesterday. You've got to just stay with it, you know, and really understand yourself, what happens in that moment when you start doubting the greens or when you start doubting the reads and just try to snap out of it somehow.

Q. Bogey free out there.

ALEX NOREN: Yeah.

Q. Was there any sort of hole or moment that you felt like was a good save or --

ALEX NOREN: Yeah. It was a good save on my fourth hole and then also on the par-3 13, is it? No, 12? Yeah, 13, 13. Hit a decent -- it's a pretty tough shot today and just left the putt short and got a good save.

Similarly on the back, like I was struggling with the putts. There's so much glare from the water, it's straight into the putt on 16, for example. Just things that you don't see any other place than here. It's a lot of beauty, but sometimes it can be tough.

Q. You mentioned the par 3s. They're all pretty difficult here, long and pretty testing. How key is that for the weekend to play those holes particularly well?



ALEX NOREN: Yeah, but you hit a lot of irons off the tees as well. Today I probably hit five irons from like especially at 10, 1, 6, and coming down even 17, hit iron off the tee. So when you hit more of those longer irons, you kind of -- it's easier than to get on a par-3 with a long 4-iron into the wind. You're just like, well, I'll just hit it like I did on the previous hole or three holes ago. It's different when it's only driver-wedge and all of a sudden you have these long par 3s, so you can kind of feed off of those shots to learn, to get a better feel for these tough par-3s.

Q. When you shoot a really low round like you did yesterday and everybody says it's hard to back up a low round, that's the old saying, when you come out to the golf course the next day, what's that feeling like when you have to do that? You started with three birdies, so it settled you down a little bit. What's that like getting ready to tee off in the second round?

ALEX NOREN: Yeah, but it's like -- it's almost like it's the third round. You build up a little lead and you have something to defend, which you don't but that's my feeling of it. So you kind of have to like go back and especially after a day like yesterday, I'll also go out practicing like if I didn't play that good, you know. You just try to level it out and have that level of adrenaline like a little bit of anxious, you know, like a little bit nervous instead of kind of -- I think that's what happens to us players when we have those low rounds is that we're on such a high. Then we think we're going to do it again the next day and we start off with a par, bogey. Then we think, how did I do that yesterday? So you just kind of get yourself down to where you were and where you are most of the time, I think.

Q. You mentioned to the radio out there that you would like to see it maybe a little bit windier, that you prefer that? Would that satisfy you this weekend?

ALEX NOREN: Yeah, like this or a little bit more would be nice.

Q. Why would you look for that?

ALEX NOREN: I just think it's -- I think this course plays really good then and I think it's usually the level of like toughness where I play my best. Like yesterday was nice, but there's a lot of guys that are -- when you are leading after two, you want it kind of to be tough on the weekend, otherwise maybe there are too many like low 60s and it's hard to defend a lead, especially with sort of a different mentality it is to lead to being 20th. You know, you can -- it's easier to shoot 61 when you're 20th somehow. It shouldn't be, but that's the mind playing tricks on you. So I want to see it a little tougher -- a little bit tougher than today would be ideal.

